



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Michael S. Steele
Lt. Governor

Mary Ann Saar
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Vernarelli (410) 339-5065

Secretary Saar Appoints Scott S. Oakley Executive Director Of the Inmate Grievance Office

Veteran Attorney Will Leave Md. Attorney General's Office Post

TOWSON, MD (July 21, 2006)---Maryland Public Safety and Correctional Services Secretary Mary Ann Saar has appointed Scott S. Oakley Executive Director of the Inmate Grievance Office. Mr. Oakley replaces Marvin N. Robbins, who recently retired after 27 distinguished years in the post.

Mr. Oakley is a veteran of nearly 25 years in the legal field, virtually all of it spent working in corrections and victim services. He began his career in 1982 as a staff attorney with the New York State Department of Correctional Services, and later became Counsel to the New York State Crime Victims Board.

The graduate of the State University of New York has spent the past several years as an Assistant Attorney General in the Maryland Attorney General's office, where he was assigned to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. In that role, Mr. Oakley was a key figure in the many legal proceedings surrounding executions in the State of Maryland.

"Scott Oakley brings vast legal experience that's directly related to corrections," says DPSCS Secretary Mary Ann Saar. "He's very attuned to how prisons operate and how our system works."

The Inmate Grievance Office operates an administrative grievance process for inmates who are confined in Division of Correction facilities and Patuxent Institution. Hearings are conducted by the Office of Administrative Hearings. Under current federal and state statutes, this administrative grievance process must be exhausted before an inmate can pursue a confinement-related claim in federal or state court.

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“In creating what was originally known as the Inmate Grievance Commission in 1971, Maryland was the first state to heed the call of Chief Justice Warren Burger,” says Mr. Oakley. “In his 1970 address to the National Association of Attorneys General, Justice Burger called for the adoption by each state of a ‘simple and workable procedure’ by which every inmate who has or thinks he or she has a grievance can be heard promptly, fairly, and fully. The Inmate Grievance Office has provided that ‘simple and workable procedure’ for 35 years, and I am committed to continuing that tradition.”

The Inmate Grievance Office has a staff of seven and is funded by the Inmate Welfare Fund. It processes thousands of inmate grievances each year.

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